



EVERY TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

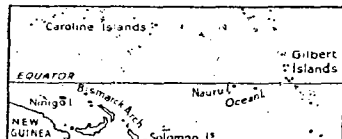
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PRICE THREEPENCE

Seven Months Adrift in a Canoe

This story of the endurance of a Pacific Islands fisherman who drifted for seven months in an open canoe, after his escape from the Japanese-occupied Ocean Island, has just reached us from the authorities at Fiji.

NABETARI, the fisherman, was working for the British Phosphate Commission on Ocean Island when the Japanese landed. As the food got scantier he and six friends resolved to escape in three small canoes. It was in April 1944 when the men left, equipped with a few coconuts and some water in Japanese



bottles. On the second night the canoes were separated by a freshening wind, and one canoe with three men disappeared. The four men in the two remaining canoes lashed their craft together and paddled, as they hoped, towards the northern Gilbert Islands.

The men lived on fish which they caught with feather baits. When they had a good catch they preserved some of the fish by drying it in the sun. When rain fell they secured water for drinking. At other times they drank the blood of captured sharks.

The days stretched into weeks and the weeks into months. Then one night the rope which held together the two canoes parted, and the second craft disappeared. Nabetari and his friend Reuera carried on alone until one day while they were trying to get a shark into the canoe, Reuera was attacked, and his arm was badly torn. In spite of the loss of blood he still lived, but nearly

a week later when he and Nabetari were asleep, the canoe capsized. Nabetari managed to right it again, but received no answer when he called Reuera's name.

By this time Nabetari himself was very weak, but he still clung tenaciously to life and continued to drift in the canoe. Twice he saw aircraft, but they were too high to see him. He was passed at a distance also by two ships.

Late in the afternoon of a day in November, seven months after he had set out from Ocean Island, Nabetari saw land. It was the island of Ninigo, about 140 miles north of New Guinea and 1800 miles from Ocean.

Land at Last!

His canoe drifted slowly towards the island, and during the next afternoon it was washed up on the reef. Nabetari crawled ashore and fell exhausted on the beach. Next morning he set out to find a village. Too weak to walk, he crawled into the shallows near the beach and let the water hold him up as he dragged himself along. Late in the afternoon four local natives found him and took him to their village. They sent word to the Australian headquarters at Manus, and from there a launch was sent to take Nabetari to hospital.

Fit and well again, Nabetari was flown back to his island home and was present at the surrender of the Japanese. His seven months' canoe journey has already become one of the wonder tales of Ocean Island.

PLOTTING THEIR ROUTE



Most Boy Scouts are expert map readers and this group, outside Windsor, are making certain of their route before continuing their ramble.

MAUNDY

One of the Royal and Ancient Customs

FROM time immemorial it has been the custom on Maundy Thursday (the day before Good Friday) for Kings of England to present money to as many poor men and women as there are years in the King's age. This is all that remains today of what was once an elaborate ceremony, in which the reigning monarch first publicly washed the feet of the poor folk brought before him, and then distributed food, clothes, and specially minted Maundy Money.

The custom is thought to have originated from Christ's washing of His Disciples' feet before His Passion.

Washing the Feet

There is an account of Queen Elizabeth performing this ceremony at Greenwich. After the Yeomen of the Laundry and the Sub-almoner had bathed the poor folks' feet in warm water and sweet-smelling herbs, the Queen knelt and also washed them. She then made the sign of the Cross and imprinted a Royal kiss on each foot—156 in all.

James II was the last King to perform the ceremony of foot-washing in person, for William III left it to his almoner, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and it was ended in the early years of Queen Victoria.

That it was quite a good thing to be the recipient of the Royal bounty on Maundy Thursday is proved by this account of the ceremony in 1731, when George II was King:

There was distributed at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, to forty-eight poor men and forty-eight poor women, boiled beef and shoulders of mutton, and small bowls of ale, which is called dinner; after that large wooden platters of fish and loaves, viz. undressed, one large old ling, and one large dried cod; twelve red herrings and twelve white herrings, and four half-quartern loaves. Each person had one platter of this provision; after which were distributed to them shoes, stockings, linen and woollen cloth, and leather bags, with one-penny, two-penny, three-penny, and four-penny pieces of silver and shillings; to each about four pounds in value.

Mathematics Without Tears

It is possible that an amazing £100,000 robot, capable of doing 100 years of mathematical work in a few hours, may help to speed up advances in almost every branch of physics, engineering, and astronomy.

The "brain" of this remarkable mechanism consists of 18,000 electronic valves, and its "nerves" are miles of interlaced electrical wire. It is capable of accurately doing 10 million additions or subtractions of 10-figure numbers in five minutes. Given two numbers, it adds or

OPEN-AIR SURVEYING CLASS



These girls at the LCC Camp School at Sayers Croft near Ewhurst are learning how to take a sight and measure distance during a lesson on surveying. The LCC has three of these Camp Schools, open from March to November, to which relays of Secondary School boys and girls are sent.

O, BLACKBIRD, WHAT A BOY YOU ARE!

THE blackbird, "the ousel cock so black of hue with orange tawny bill," is British to the core, though his alien relatives come here to winter with us. But whether a permanent resident, a visitor, or a passage migrant, he makes himself at home in town and country from year's end to year's end; and now he is letting us know it by his song.

This may begin as early as February and last till August, but is usually confined to the months of March, April, May, and June. The unequalled flute-like tones sound to most of us everywhere the same, though to attentive ears the note of one

blackbird does differ from that of another. But the phrasing is common to all; the duration is from three to five seconds; the repetition of the phrase occurs about eight times a minute. This is the full song, which may continue through the livelong day or may be reduced to dawn and evening solos.

The most individual thing about the blackbird's performance is that in delivering it he selects a special song post, the topmost branch of the same tree, the corner of a building, a chimneypot, or the top of a telegraph-pole. And why does he sing? It may be the pride of becoming a father or, as is thought more likely, it is a warning to other blackbirds that where he sings is his own domain—whether only a Chelsea garden where last year his family of five was reared in a nest among the jessamine, or whether a ten-acre field—and that trespassers will be prosecuted. Or perhaps it is just joy of life in the summer and the sun—that joy of life of which Tennyson's brother Frederick wrote:

*How sweet the harmonies of the afternoon!
The blackbird sings along the sunny breeze
His ancient song of leaves, and summer boon.*

subtracts, sends the answer to another point, and signals that it is ready for the next operation—all in one 5000th part of a second.

The name of the robot is ENIAC, or electronic numerical integrator and computer, and it will be used to work only the most difficult mathematical problems of science and industry, particularly as regards aerodynamics and atomic energy. During the war it did wonderful service in computing artillery firing and bombing tables.

A TRIUMPH FOR UNO

A THRILL of hope ran round the world recently when the United Nations Organisation, through its Security Council meeting in New York, took another determined step toward settling the unhappy situation due to the continued presence of Russian troops in Persia.

The Security Council had asked both Russia and Persia for information about the progress of their negotiations with each other, and the Russians promised that their troops shall be withdrawn from Persia by May 6.

When the Allies occupied Persia during the war they drew up a treaty in 1942 under which they all agreed to take their troops away from Persia six months after the end of the war. The Russians, therefore, should have withdrawn their troops by March 2, but they failed to do so, because, it was suggested, they wished to persuade the Persian Government to allow them to obtain oil from the rich fields of Northern Persia. But the Russians had broken the treaty and Persia appealed to the Security Council of Uno.

Thus at the outset of its career the new world peace organisation had to face a real test, for Russia is a great Power and Persia a comparatively

weak country. Some pessimistic people thought Russia did not intend to co-operate with Uno. Happily, Russia showed her eagerness to do so by being among the first of the nations to pay her contribution to Uno's funds.

The Russians would have liked Uno not to discuss their dispute with Persia but, wisely and bravely, the Security Council insisted, and now Russia, equally wisely, has agreed to withdraw her troops.

In view of the Russian promise the Security Council agreed by nine votes to none—the Australian delegate refrained from voting—to postpone further discussion of the Russo-Persian question until May 6—unless in the meantime there should be any hitch in the withdrawal.

Uno is like an inspired youth going out into the world for the first time. He meets many discouragements, but he forges resolutely ahead for he knows the future belongs to him.

The Open Door For Officers

SANDHURST and Woolwich, our two great peacetime schools of training for commissioned Army rank, are to be amalgamated, and the new school will be known as the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

The plan for admission to the new Sandhurst is to recruit from two sources: boys between 17½ and 18½ who pass an entrance examination; and young men between 18½ and 19½ already serving in the ranks who show qualities of leadership. Both types must serve in the ranks for six months before they enter the Academy; and recruits must be British subjects, sons of British subjects, and of pure European descent.

Normally, the Sandhurst course will last for eighteen months, and candidates will be allowed to state their preference for any particular corps or regiment. The cadets will have the same rate of pay as ordinary serving soldiers, and there will be no fees or premiums.

Apart from some appointments to regular commissions of young men at the universities and in the auxiliary forces, Sandhurst will be the only chance for obtaining a regular commission.

In future any young man with qualities of leadership, and brains, should be able to earn the honour of His Majesty's commission if he is bent upon a military career.

THE VC OF HONG KONG

JOHN OSBORN, a company sergeant-major in the Winnipeg Grenadiers, was killed in action at Hong Kong on December 19, 1941, and for his valour that day won the Victoria Cross.

Under his leadership, a steep hill was captured by his unit and held for three hours; but they had to retire because the Japs had superior numbers, and the sergeant-major covered the retreat at great risk to himself.

Later that day his company were cut off and surrounded, and

the enemy pitched grenades into their midst. Osborn picked up some and threw them back before they exploded, but one landed in a position where it could not be picked up in time. Realising the mortal danger to his comrades, this brave soldier threw himself on the grenade. He was killed instantly, but he had saved the lives of many of his men.

This is the 177th VC of the last war, and CSM Osborn was the tenth Canadian soldier to win the honour.

Sunlight From the Main

THE sunlight that spring offers us free requires all the scientific resources of a great electric company to imitate.

This firm brought to bear the light from fluorescent lamps, mercury lamps, incandescent sun lamps, and filtered the mixture through a glass ceiling with water flowing over it. The water was to absorb some of the radiant energy that water vapour in the earth's atmosphere distributes when the Sun's light comes through it and so to produce the same effect. Other

expedients let through the infra-red heat rays which produce the tanning effects of sunlight, and thus a darkened room about the size of an ordinary office was lit up with an artificial sunlight as nearly like the genuine article in characteristics and intensity as we are likely to see.

The ordinary householder, however, will be unlikely to have the new light, for its production, for purely scientific information, cost as much electric power as would suffice to light 100 houses in the ordinary way.

Festival of Amateur Sport HOCKEY & FOOTBALL

WITH Easter as the first outdoor holiday of the year, many sporting events are being held. One of the most welcome will be the return to Folkestone of the Hockey Festival after a lapse of five years.

The Hockey Festival is attracting at least two teams from France. Another team from overseas will be the Ironsides, an appropriately-named side raised by men from our Tank forces in Germany. The matches begin on Good Friday afternoon and will continue all day on Saturday and Easter Monday. Among the 24 teams expected to take part will be many international players, and the big match of the festival will be between a Combined Services side and France.

With the football season nearing its end the various Cup and League competitions are being decided. On Saturday the Final of the Amateur Cup at Stamford Bridge, the Chelsea Football Club ground, provides another test between North and South, when the present holders, Bishop Auckland, of Durham, meet Barnet, the Hertfordshire team. Bishop Auckland have a great record in the Amateur Cup and have now reached the Final on 12 occasions, winning the trophy seven times. But great hope is placed on Barnet's first appearance in the Final by all in the South, and the match is sure to provide good football, for both sides have men of outstanding merit.

FAITH IN THE FUTURE

By President Truman

THE same unswerving determination and effort which produced the release of atomic energy can and will enable mankind to live without terror and reap untold benefits from this new product of man's genius.

I am not pessimistic about the future. I have confidence that there is no international problem which cannot be solved if there are the will and the strength to solve it through the United Nations which we have all created.

Man of Many Parts

LIEUT-COLONEL GRAHAM SETON HUTCHISON, who has passed away at his Buckinghamshire home at the age of 56, was a man of varied talents. Politics, publicity, landscape painting—all claimed his energies in turn.

As an author, too, he won great success, in his usual versatile manner, autobiography, best-selling novels, and authoritative writings on military affairs all flowing easily from his pen. But, first and foremost, he was a soldier—and a very gallant soldier, who served in France throughout the First World War and was awarded the DSO and MC.

Seton Hutchison took an active interest in youth affairs and did much good work for the Gordon Boys' Home. Truly, he turned his hand to many things, and always with distinction.

WORLD NEWS REEL

LUMBERJILLS. The North German Timber Control is to have the assistance of 100 girls from the British Women's Timber Corps.

Mr Gandhi broke his rule of observing Monday as a day of silence in order to talk with Sir Stafford Cripps.

Traffic is now moving again on the Dortmund-Ems canal which during the war was breached by the R.A.F.

HAMLET IN SPAIN. Shakespeare's Hamlet recently had a successful run of 85 performances in Barcelona.

The Dagenham Girl Pipers are to tour Sweden.

People in British Columbia have handed in over 18,000 meat, butter, and sugar ration coupons, desiring that the food which they could have obtained with them should be sent to Britain.

WONDERLAND. The manuscript of Alice in Wonderland recently changed hands in New York for 50,000 dollars.

The controlling interest in the Times of India, which has been British-owned for 108 years, has been bought by a Hindu industrialist, Seth Ramkrishna Dalmia.

HOME NEWS REEL

ON HIS TOES. Brian Todd, 17, of Blundell's School, Tiverton, broke his school's mile record and also won the half-mile, running barefooted.

Courtaulds have given £60,000 to Leeds University for a Rayon section in its Department of Textile Industries.

Whipsnade recently missed 18 North American turkeys. They were eventually found roosting in trees three miles away, near Studham.

VOCAL MAP. At an exhibition at the Empire Tea Bureau in London, a synchophone, or talking map, was used to illustrate the way of life in Australia.

Jacob Epstein is to sculpture a bronze bust of Winston Churchill for the Imperial War Museum.

In February 371 people were killed on the roads, compared with 384 in February a year ago. The figures are the lowest for February for many years.

VICAR OF BRAY. At the parish election at Bray, Berkshire, the Vicar headed the poll as an Independent.

Hythe, on Southampton Water, will probably become the HQ for flying boats of the British Overseas Airways Corporation.

The Lincoln Cathedral copy of Magna Carta, which returned to Britain in January, after its seven years' absence in America, has been officially handed over to the Dean and Chapter.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

KING'S SCOUT TROOP. Calgary (Ontario) is to have a Special King's Scout Troop. The Scouts will wear a special neckerchief and be used on ceremonial occasions as a guard of honour, and for other public functions.

The Chief Scout has awarded the Cornwell Scout Certificate to Wolf Cub Derek Lenney, a Sixer in the 9th Ipswich Pack, for his courage and cheerfulness during illness. Derek is 10 years old.

Scouts of Northampton hope to raise £2000 for a memorial to local Scouts who lost their lives in the war. The memorial will take the form of a house for the warden of the Scouts' own camping ground at Overston.

Iceland has bought four Mulberry Harbours from Britain for use as fishing-vessel shelters.

EYE MAGNET. The world's largest electro-magnet, weighing 10 tons, is being completed at the Eye Clinic at Belgrade University. It will be able to draw pieces of metal from people's eyes and also, it is claimed, draw bullets from other parts of the human body.

President Roosevelt's collection of stamps, sold by auction, realised £52,719—considerably more than its estimated value.

EMPIRE CITIZENSHIP. Australia has agreed to be represented at a British Commonwealth conference to discuss a proposed law for one nationality for all citizens of the British Commonwealth countries.

A food conference is to be held on May 20 between the United Nations food ministers, representatives of Unrra, and the Combined Food Board.

Britain's new Ambassador to the U.S., Lord Inverchapel, formerly Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, will arrive in America next month. The retiring ambassador, Lord Halifax, is expected to leave the U.S. on May 16.

FOR PARENTS. As a result of the success of the Mayor of Hendon's courtesy campaign for children in the borough, a parents' guild of courtesy is to be established.

Five new BBC Governors have been appointed. Among them are Miss Barbara Ward, of Brains Trust fame, and Dr Ernest Whittingfield, a 58-year-old blind violinist.

When an official of the Merchant Navy Comforts Service received a cardboard box full of greasy toffee paper he thought it was a joke and emptied it into the waste-paper basket. Paper money worth £99 10s fell out, with a note saying: For orphans of merchant seamen.

ROBOT WASHER-UP. By June automatic dish and clothes washers will be on sale for £50 (without purchase-tax) or, without the dish-washer, £37. About 30 plates can be washed at a time, or 8 lbs of clothing. It is claimed that the machine runs for four hours on one unit of electricity.

Boys between 14 and 18 of the 1st Technical Training Battalion, Royal Signals, will this summer be allowed to keep bicycles only if they pass a road test.

At an Albert Hall rally of the National Savings Movement the Chancellor of the Exchequer was promised that £520,000,000 will be raised by savings during the next 12 months.

SAVED HIS MOTHER. The Boys Brigade Diploma for Gallant Conduct has been awarded to 14-year-old William Spence of the 1st Burntisland Company for his coolness and skill in saving his mother from serious injury when her clothing caught fire.

The Scout Gilt Cross has been awarded to Patrol Leader Arthur Goulding, of the 2nd New Mills (Derbyshire) Group, for his gallantry in rescuing a small child from drowning in filterbeds at New Mills.

The British Junior Red Cross has a new Director, Miss B. Coke, succeeding Mrs Eckersley who has resigned owing to ill-health.

All For a Farthing

TWOPENCE-FARTHING for half a pint of milk—what a nuisance farthings are! grumbles many a housewife. Certainly our smallest bronze coin seems to be much less popular than it was; and there are many people who remember the joy and excitement it brought them in the days of The Farthing Shop.

The Farthing Shop was for many years famous as a minor establishment in Clerkenwell, kept by sisters, two rosy-cheeked little women who had an astonishing stock of wares, all at one farthing each. A farthing bought sweets, a little book with coloured pictures, a pencil, a pen, a whipping-top, a top-whip, a windmill on a stick, and all manner of other toys, many of

them made by the two jolly little women as they sat at the counter. Those cheery ladies have now passed on and their premises are numbered with the blitzed; but the Farthing Shop is still warmly remembered by many folk.

The now-despised farthing also has its place in the story of literature. Just over a century ago Richard Henry Horne wrote an epic poem entitled Orion, which enjoyed great fame. In order, as he said, "to mark the public contempt into which epic poetry has fallen," he published it at a farthing. It naturally sold in great numbers, and the price was raised to 7s. Readers called the poet Orion Horne; his poem they called The Farthing Epic.

THE FLYING WING

SPEAKING in London recently, Sir Ben Lockspeiser, Director of Scientific Research to the Ministry of Aircraft Production, envisaged "all wing and no body" aeroplanes for long-distance flights.

To ensure that the drag of aeroplanes was reduced as far as possible they should be built either with bodies of greatly reduced size, or, better still, without bodies and tail planes at all.

Sir Ben believes that fast long-distance, all-wing civil planes will ultimately be recognised as the best type of aircraft for night passengers and mail.

Schoolmaster Miner

IN those ancient days of little coal or none, schoolboys must have been hardy indeed; the early Winchester College, for instance, had no fire in its main schoolroom, and a headmaster there in the days of Queen Elizabeth wrote, with astonishing cheerfulness, that in the fireless room they were all kept warm by the rays of the sun, and the breath of the boys.

Mr Oakeshott, the new headmaster of Winchester, regards coal as a more reliable source of heat—and he knows, for in 1936 he forsook the high mastery of St Paul's School for 18 months to take part in an industrial inquiry; and in order to gain practical knowledge of what the life and work of a coal miner actually mean he became a temporary collier.

PEANUT PLUS IRON

THE iron biscuit, which was so called because it was the iron ration prepared against the siege of Hong Kong, was really made out of peanuts.

Peanut flour is not favoured as food because of the oil in it, but when this was squeezed out it became ready for the other ingredients which would make it the master baker's triumph. The first ingredient was iron sufficient for human need, the second and third were preventatives of pellagra and beri-beri; and besides these it received calcium carbonate and shark liver oil. A strange mixture containing nearly the whole alphabet of vitamins, its use and value were first confirmed by trying it on patients in the hospitals, and, not long after, it became popular and cheap. One biscuit was only a halfpenny the ounce; and though as tough as could be expected, people began to like it as well as to digest it.

TRAVEL IN LUXURY

A NEW service of luxury trains has been started in Russia.

One train runs from Moscow to the holiday resort Sochi, and has curtained and carpeted carriages provided with small libraries, chessboards, post-boxes, and radio set. One of the coaches has shower baths and a hairdressing saloon, and there is also a footwear and clothing repair shop. Soap, toothpaste, and writing materials can also be obtained.

The trains running between Moscow and Tbilisi are even more luxurious, and are fitted with telephones. At all big towns the telephone system is connected to local exchanges.

The World's Food

THE plain facts about the world's food have been clearly explained in a White Paper (Stationery Office, 4d).

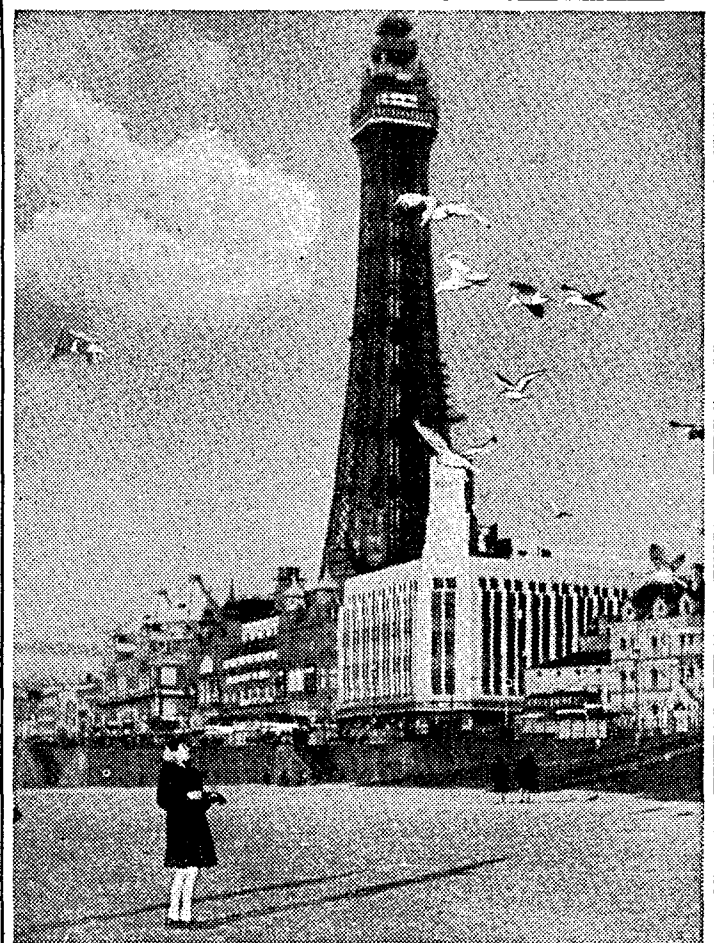
The food problem is no longer one of austerity but shortage, this document says. In addition to causes due to war, droughts have been widespread—in Europe, French North Africa, South Africa, New Zealand, and India.

Unhappily, the world shortage of food is not likely to disappear with this year's harvests. Three things are plain from a study of this publication: the food problem is world-wide, and must be dealt with as such; we must hope for favourable weather all over the world, and the whole world must work to its utmost.

THE RADAR BUOY

AT the Radiolocation Convention in London recently a description was given of one of the strangest radar devices of the war. This was a marker buoy, which gave valuable and accurate radiolocation bearings to ships on vital work, and then blew itself up.

The buoy was about six feet long and was fitted with an anchor, a drum mooring cable, a twelve-foot telescopic aerial, a radar transmitter and receiver, and an explosive charge. When dropped by plane into the sea it moored itself, erected its aerial, and switched itself on. During the next eighteen hours it flashed out an automatic radar answer to any vessel within twenty miles—then it exploded!



Eventide at Blackpool

The crowds have left the sands for other amusements, but this girl lingers on to feed the gulls who are still eager for scraps in spite of a prosperous day.



Young Austria

At an English library opened in Vienna recently by General McCreery, a British soldier explains a book of fables to six-year-old Eifreda Becka.

LONELY ISLAND'S SCHOOLMASTER

EARLY in February the steamer Empire Merganser, of 6187 tons, left Cape Town for Montevideo, calling on the way at the lonely island of Tristan da Cunha.

The only passengers were the Revd Chapman Handley and his wife, Mr Handley having been appointed schoolmaster to the island.

Instruments for the South African Air Force meteorological station on the island were among the cargo.



What, No More Tit-Bits?

This little girl beside the Thames at Windsor seems to be trying to explain to the rather greedy swans that they have had the last of the crumbs from her sandwiches.

FILM INDUSTRY FOR SCOTLAND

THE aims and plans of the Scottish National Film Studios, Ltd, were outlined recently by Mr Joseph Macleod, a former BBC announcer, who is now managing director of the new company.

They are confident that Scotland offers ample scope for film-making, and intend at first to concentrate on documentary films representative of all phases of the Scottish life.

The new company is to be a Scottish native venture. Scottish technicians are to be brought back from the south, and it is hoped to raise a sum of £100,000 from Scotsmen the world over in order to set up a studio in the Highlands.

The general control of the company will rest with a Council of about a dozen members. Those already tentatively chosen include Sir Hugh Robertson, conductor of the Orpheus choir, and representatives from the Iona Youth Community and the Film Council.

FASHIONS ON WINGS

THE Bristol Aeroplane Company have designed flying shops and showrooms to boost British fashions and textiles throughout the world. These will be the best flying showrooms in the world. They will be used by fashion firms, it is hoped, within the United Kingdom as well as for their overseas business.

Ike to Visit Scotland

GENERAL EISENHOWER is expected to travel north in May to receive the freedom of Edinburgh, and during this visit will stay at Culzean Castle for the first time. As told in the CN, he was recently given the life tenancy of a suite of rooms there as his Scottish home.

Culzean, which is the ancestral home of the Marquess of Ailsa, was some time ago presented to the nation. It will be reconstructed, and although the grounds will be open to the public this summer the castle itself will not be open until next year, and the General's own suite will not be ready for him during the visit.

The Splash and the Drizzle

OVER some picked areas artificial rain was recently poured by specially-contrived machines for making it. The experiment was made to find what real rain did when it descended on the farmer's land. Some of the results were simply evident.

Heavy driving rain falling on bare land splashes, and the splash, carrying the dust of the soil with it, fills up more closely the pores of the soil so that the water runs off instead of going

deeper. But a drizzle brings with it little or no splash; the pores are kept open and the soil beneath is moistened.

If the soil is covered with a mat of vegetation, as in a pasture, there can be little or no splash, and all the rain thus falling will find its way to where it can do most good. The farmer is, no doubt, aware of it, but exact knowledge of his soil and the local rainfall will help him to plan his holding into arable land for crops and pasture for stock.

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The Children



Small but Proud

One of Miss Hazel Sams's young ponies showing off his paces, watched by his friend the pet goat, at Wraysbury, Bucks.

CITIES MIRRORED IN THE SKIES

A GLIMPSE of Grimsby with trawlers sailing in the Humber, changing later to a peep at Hull, with its familiar tall smoking chimneys, was seen one day recently by crowds on the seafront at Bridlington.

Grimsby and Hull are 35 and 24 miles away from Bridlington, and the images of the two towns and several miles of coast were seen mirrored in the sky. The observers had seen a mirage, which lasted for two hours.

Tired and thirsty travellers in the desert are sometimes the victims of a mirage. They see ahead an oasis, where shade and water are promised. Then, as they travel on, it disappears. What the travellers actually see is an image of a real oasis much farther on, below the horizon, just as the people at Bridlington saw mirrored in the sky places that were more than 20 miles away.

The unusually hot weather of

early April brought about conditions where there would be several distinct layers of air of different temperatures and, consequently, of different densities. Rays of light would become bent as they passed from one layer to another, as we see when a stick is placed in water. Passing through successive layers of different density the path of the rays would become a curve and the distant scene would be observed as though in a gigantic mirror placed in the sky.

Sometimes these images are seen inverted, and occasionally two images are seen, the second as though it were the reflection in a pool of the first. A boat far away below the horizon is sometimes thus revealed to sailors. These conditions vary according to the order in which the cold and warm layers of air appear. Rarely, however, have such clear pictures been seen in Britain's skies as those at Bridlington.

What Tidal Waves Can Do

WHEN an earthquake occurs under the sea the convulsion causes what is known as a tidal wave. But it has nothing to do with the tides.

The other day there was an earthquake off the coast of Alaska, and it started tidal waves covering 2500 square miles, affecting not only Alaska but the west coast of Canada and the United States, and also the Aleutian and Hawaiian Islands. Unhappily, there was considerable loss of life and destruction.

The first sign of a tidal wave

is that the water is drawn from the shore by the earthquake. Then the sea comes rushing back inland in giant waves, and this may go on for a long time.

One of the worst tidal waves ever recorded was on the coast of Chile some years ago. Ships were left high and dry and were later driven inland and broken into matchwood. A United States warship was actually carried half a mile inland, and lay there for nine years; then another tidal wave came and bore her still farther away from the sea.

RULES OF THE ROAD

A NEW Highway Code, brightly written and more easily read than the present one, is being prepared by the Government. In due course a copy will be sent to every home in Britain.

This was announced the other day by Mr Strauss, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Transport, and he added that, probably next autumn, driving tests would be re-imposed.

These are two steps towards road safety, and the Government are also spending £250,000 a year on a publicity campaign.

"We are trying to kill carelessness on the roads, because it is carelessness which kills human beings," said Mr Strauss.

In the debate a member stated that the cost of road casualties to the nation, in the value of human life and limb, was about £100,000,000 a year, or £300,000 a day.

No efforts to impress on road users, drivers and pedestrians alike, the vital importance of exercising care can be too great. This summer will be a real testing time. So, know your kerb drill—and practise it.

In a German Prison Camp

By the C N Film Correspondent

It is always gratifying to review a good British film, for one can usually be sure of a certain element of sincerity and a worthwhile story. In *The Captive Heart* we have this sincerity if the story is perhaps a little weak. It is a study of the life of a typical group of soldiers in a prisoner-of-war camp, and as much of the film was made in an actual camp in Germany and the script was written by an ex-POW, this production rings true. During the four years of the story—from their capture in France in 1940 to their repatriation in 1944—the studies of the individuals are clearly expressed. Emphasis is placed on the lighter side of camp life, and shows in no uncertain way how the lives of thousands of soldiers in prison camps were lightened by the comforts provided by Red Cross parcels.

The characters are beautifully drawn, with Michael Redgrave as the Czech officer at first a suspect of his companions; Basil Radford as the camp leader, a combination of authority and humour; and radio-comedian Jack Warner, playing a straight and sympathetic part.

This is not a war film in the usual sense, but a moving study of human anguish, courage, and comradeship. Those who are tired of war films—practically everyone—will find this an excellent and affecting film based on a phase of the war they have never seen before.



Ariel

David O'Brien, aged 14, who is playing Ariel in *The Tempest* at the Shakespeare Festival at Stratford-on-Avon on Saturday.

BUNGALOW BIDDY

AN American who invented a huge machine which "lays" houses and is called Bungalow Biddy, Mr R. F. Le Tourneau, is going to build a big factory in this country at Stockton-on-Tees which will produce high horsepower tractors fitted with a variety of levelling and scraping machinery.

The "house-laying" machine will not be made over here, but the Ministry of Health have asked for details and the firm are prepared to bring one over from America if it is wanted. This huge machine is built round a 450 hp tractor. Concrete is poured into special steel forms at a central site and the machine transports this shell across country and lays it on the foundations.

EDITOR'S TABLE

BE OF GOOD CHEER!

THIS Easter of 1946 is the first peacetime Easter since 1939 and all over the world men will pause in their work to look ahead and take fresh hope. That is the chief meaning of Easter as it comes round each year. It is a reminder that however bad the world may appear it is the Christian belief that it is never beyond salvation.

When Christ was crucified on Good Friday His company of friends were saddened and bewildered. They had lost heart, and it needed a miraculous event to turn them into the adventurous, daring company which was to spread the message of hope and good cheer to all the world.

EASTER morning, Christians believe, was that event. As they visited the tomb in the Garden on Easter morning those first Christians knew that the most wonderful thing in the world had happened: Christ had risen from the dead, and in future no one need be afraid of what might happen after life on this earth. Ever since then Easter has been the time of new beginnings when men say to each other: "Be of good cheer, the best is yet to be."

What happened two thousand years ago on Easter morning has a direct meaning for us now, for we need the forward-looking confidence of those early friends of Christ who went out into their tired, sad world as men who had the secret of new life in their keeping. And what they did remade the world!

EASTER'S message to us all is that what might have been the greatest tragedy in the world was turned into the most glorious triumph. From that first Easter the life of every man born into the world took on new power—and hope. It means that love, friendship, pity, truth, and beauty do not die, but live on for ever. It means, too, that all the fine and honourable things we do and think are immortal, and that the spirit in which a man lives is the final test of character. By this faith countless millions of men and women have lived during the past two thousand years and have proved their faith true; and all of us this Easter have a fresh chance of passing on the faith.

EASTER comes to us with the breath of Spring air and sunshine, with Spring flowers and the promise of Summer splendour. That is nature's share in the mission of good cheer and hope which Easter spreads through all the world.

That is the spirit of faith and confidence which renews our life each Easter and bids us greet the future undismayed.

Our Friend France

SINCE, very early in this century, King Edward VII extended to France the hand of friendship, and brought about what was known as the Entente Cordiale, Britain and France have been good neighbours. They have worked together, in peace and war, and the link was not even broken when France capitulated to the Germans, for Free France carried on, in England, and among the underground legions of the Maquis, to fight her way back to freedom.

Now the good news has come that the French Prime Minister, M. Gouin, has proposed an alliance between France and Great Britain similar to that between France and Russia, and Britain and Russia, and there is no doubt that this proposal will be welcomed here.

France, famed in all the great arts, is rising to new greatness, and the renewed hand of British friendship will help her on, and help us, too.

SPRING BLESSINGS

O THE wealth of pearly blossom,
O the woodland's emerald green!
O the welcome, welcome sunshine on the diamond-sparkling stream!
O the carol from the hawthorn and the trill from dazzling blue!
O the glory of the springtime making all things bright and new!
O the rosy eve's surrender
To the Easter moonlight tender!
O the early morning splendour,
Fresh and fragrant, cool and clear,
In the rising of the year!
Frances Ridley Havergal

JUST AN IDEA

As Dante wrote, *To men prepared delay is always hurtful.*

Under the



PETER PI
WANTS
KNOW
If plumb
learn t
dancing

A NEW hotel is being built on the cliff's edge near Bournemouth. Who will take it over?

A NEW colour is named Can Pink. Girls look sweet in it.

THE march of time goes slowly the House of Commons. debates often run on.

THE Cairn terrier does not need trimming. It would look silly with a lace collar.

BUILDING material can be made out of straw. That shows which way the wind blows.

SOME things make your skin look coarse. The chief one is having a coarse skin.

THE Coal Board is a new organisation. Mind someone doesn't chop it up for firewood.

A Brighter Britain

BRITAIN'S buildings are sorely in need of coats of paint, in bright and tasteful colours. The grime and decay which seven years of neglect have made inevitable need to be removed in these wonderful spring days when gladness is in the air. A painting campaign could make Britain the brighter place which it deserves to be.

The Government, however, have announced a large cut in the supplies of raw materials for paint making.

Whatever the difficulties may be, we hope that something can soon be done to overcome them. We want bright buildings to please the eye, and make the heart rejoice.

Song of the Boatmen

"ANY more for the Skylark?" That well-loved cry disappeared from our shores when war came. It was heard on a few beaches last summer but will be heard on many more this year.

Almost everywhere around our coasts boatmen are busy preparing for the summer holiday season. Repairs are being made, and fresh coats of paint are being applied to pleasure craft, so that we may enjoy trips on the briny once more.

When we take our summer holiday by the sea we should not forget that many of the bright boats which give us so much pleasure were in service from the shores of England to the Dunkirk beaches.

It is fitting that the little ips and their crews which saved so many of our brave men in Britain's dark hour should serve again as carriers of happy humanity in the bays and waters they helped to keep free.

Editor's Table

A MAN says that when he uses the telephone he frequently cannot get through. Must be too fat.

Two dentists have been disputing about the best way to draw a tooth. They should have it out between them.



It is said that a certain orator can fill the Albert Hall. He must be a big noise.

THINGS SAID

I HAVE not forgotten even the cat, for fish-heads are down by twopence a pound.

Sir Ben Smith, Minister of Food

It is better to lay up a golden nest-egg for tomorrow than scramble for dried eggs today.

Lady Violet Bonham-Carter at the National Savings Rally

THE saving of 10 to 12 million tons of coal by housewives pulled Britain through the winter.

D. R. Grenfell, M.P.

THE people of the world want bread, not advice. I want fast-moving ships, not slow-reading resolutions.

New Director-General of Unrra

ON RAILWAY GARDENS

EVERYONE likes a garden, and everyone on a train journey has enjoyed seeing little stations gay with flowers in gardens obviously tended with pride.

Pocket-handkerchief gardens some of them seemed, but they had a friendly look and maintained a nice balance between the practical and the ornamental. Certain it is that spelling the name of a station in letters of stone in a garden, and underlining them, as it were, with aubrietia (or more appropriately, forget-me-not) is quite the prettiest way of telling a traveller where he is.

There never was any reason why a railway station, in the country at least, should not be a thing of beauty—and many were. During the war, of course, marigolds and stocks and geraniums had to give way to vegetables; cauliflowers were the only floral display not officially frowned on.

But this year, we learn, there is to be a partial break with austerity, and the Great Western Railway is reviving its best-kept Gardens Competition which used to keep some 500 stations engaged in friendly rivalry.

We look forward to our railway journeys being more colourful.

The Easter Lily

A CN reader in Scotland tells us how she has been watching the outstanding boldness and confidence with which the Easter Lily is forcing its way through the ground, hardened by frost, and in face of the cold, biting winds of her northern land. I wonder (she writes) how many have heard of the old legend connected with the Easter lily?

When Christ walked in the garden of Gethsemane, all the flowers bowed their heads in homage, except this one. He stood and gazed at it sadly, till in very shame it had to droop its head, and ever since a big tear-drop is to be seen if you look into the hearts of the flowers which hang head downwards.

What a message of humbled pride and a brave carrying on in face of all adversity is here.

Trimming-Time

By the C N Zoo Correspondent

THE Zoo bird keepers, particularly those in charge of the larger birds which inhabit open paddocks, are busy just now examining their charges, and here and there we may see them clipping the wings of a crane or a stork to stop its flying away.

Keepers drive the bird into a corner of its compound, then catch it, and, with the body secured between the knees and the beak tucked safely away under one arm, the man shortens the flight-feathers of one wing—usually the left—with a large pair of nippers. To clip both wings is unnecessary because no bird can fly if its wings are of different lengths—its balance would be so affected that it would be unable to get "airborne."

The operation is, of course, painless and rarely takes longer than half a minute. As one keeper put it: "It's catching your bird that takes the time!"

As a rule, the wings of the larger birds are clipped only once a year, during autumn, when the birds are usually more manageable than in spring. Some, however, grow their feathers faster than others (just as some boys grow their hair more rapidly



than others). Then they need attention twice a year.

One bird that always grows his flight-feathers quickly is a Stanley crane which lives in a paddock near the North Gate. If he gets out he is apt to do foolish things. One day last year, when his wings were not shortened in time, he got over the fence that separates his enclosure from one occupied by some other cranes. They nearly killed him.

This spring, therefore, the keepers have made sure that Mr Stanley will remain at home, and in my picture the bird is having a few flight-feathers snipped off in good time.

Cocky's Manicure

Another little job we may often see just now is a keeper trimming the claws of a bird—usually a parrot or cockatoo. The other day I watched Cocky, the talking cockatoo, having his "manicure." Cocky's curved talons had become so long that they were catching in his perch, his chain, and even his drinking-trough.

Talking to the bird to engage its attention, he manoeuvred Cocky on one of the fingers of his left hand. Man and bird continued chatting affably, and every now and then the keeper's right hand would come up furtively for a moment, and "snip!" would go the nail cutter. Cocky was soon back on his perch, much happier for the little attention that had been given him. C. H.

HE DESIGNED THE CROWN OF FLORENCE

THEY are remembering in Florence this week the young man who rose to be the Father of Modern Architecture and who designed for its cathedral a dome which has never been out-matched. Filippo Brunelleschi died on April 16, just 500 years ago.

It is but a few months since Florence received back with rejoicing the 25 railway wagon-loads of art treasures that the Germans had looted and carried off. But Brunelleschi's gift to mankind they had not been able to steal; his genius is expressed in architecture—in the famous Pitti Palace, in dwellings of men once illustrious, and, above all, in the world-famous dome of Florence Cathedral.

Born in 1377, Brunelleschi showed such a passion for art and mechanics that his father, a Florentine lawyer, made him a goldsmith. He showed rare proficiency with jewels and precious metals, and his talents early revealed themselves in noble sculpture; but his aim was architecture, and the crown he sought, the raising of an incomparable dome over the cathedral, which the designer had left with only a mean cupola of wood. To this end Brunelleschi studied for years in Rome, then a city of ruins, measuring, excavating, and sketching the glories of the fallen Eternal City. In an artistic sense he virtually rediscovered Rome, meanwhile earning his bread by working for the jewellers there.

He returned to Florence at 28 to compete for the honour of building the dome, which the city now proposed. But how was a dome to be erected over the great eight-sided space, where the nave and transepts cross—a dome 138½ feet in diameter, of sufficient mass, dignity, and beauty to afford the outstanding wonder of a Gothic cathedral covering 82,000 square feet of ground? Architects from many lands attended. One suggested a dome of sponge-stone so that it



should be light in weight. Another desired a vast supporting pillar in the centre. A third said that if they filled the space between the floor and the dome with supporting earth containing ing money, the public, in order to gain the coins, would cart away the earth at their own cost when the dome was finished.

The plan of Brunelleschi to construct an immense eight-sided dome by a system of support then unique caused him to be denounced as crazy. He was actually dragged out of the conference as an intolerable lunatic, and he feared to walk the streets lest people should cry, "There goes that madman!" However, Florence had eventually to beg him to undertake the task. He toiled for 26 years in completing his dome, leaving at his death plans for the lantern at the summit. The dome, which in Europe, is only exceeded in span by that of the Roman Pantheon, served as the model for the dome of St Peter's, Rome.

Iceland For Holidays

It may not be so long now before people of this country will be spending their summer holidays in Iceland. The season will be from June to September, and although at present there is a shortage of hotels, Iceland plans to build numerous comfortable inns for visitors.

The head of the Icelandic association of innkeepers and restaurant owners is at present in California, studying the chances of making his country a health resort and a Mecca for tourists. He claims that Iceland's hot springs will be one of the most important attractions.



THIS ENGLAND

The church and village street of beautiful Kersey, Suffolk, reflected in a stream

AS BUSY AS A BEE

BEES are among the first creatures to sense the coming of Spring. For some weeks many have been on the wing again, particularly during spells of midday sunshine, seeking nectar from the early flowers, from the "Blossom of the almond trees, April's gift to April's bees."

The queen bee lays her first eggs at the end of January and it is then that the active cycle of their year begins anew. Hard-working people are sometimes described as "busy bees," but the description rarely does justice to these industrious insects. There are few of us, and indeed few other creatures, whose lives can compare with that of a bee for energy and toil.



In the production of honey, bees provide us with a splendid example of the great achievements possible by the united work of many. The average honey-load carried by a bee is one ten-thousandth part of a pound. Assuming that a bee must fly a mile to collect this load—and it is known that bees sometimes forage as far as three miles from their homes—at least ten thousand miles must be covered for every pound of honey produced. Hives, yielding as much as one hundred pounds of honey in a season, demonstrate the tremendous energy of their occupants.

Beeswax, which is much prized for furniture polish and has many industrial uses, is obtained by melting down old combs which bees have built. It is not collected by the bees, as often supposed, but is a secretion which forms as tiny scales beneath their bodies. They first gorge themselves with honey, and some twenty-four hours later the wax appears. Between ten

and twenty pounds of honey are consumed in producing one pound of wax.

The most important work of bees is, however, neither the production of honey nor of beeswax, valuable as these are, but of pollination. In their quest for nectar, bees carry the fertilising dust from blossom to blossom, and it is mainly to them we owe our crops of fruit.

Bees literally kill themselves with toil; none of those born in the spring live to see their work completed at the end of the summer. Continual buffeting among the flowers rubs the hairs from their bodies and tears their wings, and they die, worn out, when six or seven weeks old. Bees born late in the autumn live through the winter to start work the following year.

In the summer bees toil from sunrise to sunset; they work a seven-day week, and live a seven-week life. Can anybody or anything challenge such a record?

FLYING FARMERS

WITH the disposal of surplus U.S. military planes in America there has been a rapid expansion of the use of aircraft for farming. By a technique developed some years ago it is quite possible for the farmer to sow seeds from the air, spray crops, and find missing animals.

During the coming season the farmers will also fly their produce in planes with insulated containers.

Schoolboys' Own Football Final

By the C N Sportsman

WHILE the thoughts of all football lovers are on the coming Cup Finals—the Amateur on Saturday and the F.A. Cup on April 27—schoolboys everywhere are specially concerned about their own Final—that of the English Schools' Football Association Shield.

From among some 380 local Schools' Football Associations, four teams have reached the semi-finals, which are to be decided soon. These Associations control more than 7000 schools of all types, and are responsible for the arrangements of the games which, at the height of the season, engage at least 77,000 schoolboys in healthy sport under the watchful eyes of some 7000 teachers! From these inter-school games clever players are chosen to appear in each local Schools' Association representative side, and it is these teams which engage in the ESFA Shield.

Thousands For Charity

Since its institution in 1905 the ESFA has been run much on the same lines as its parent, the Football Association, and actually has a seat on the Council. The two chief aims are: the mental, moral, and physical development and improvement of schoolboys, and aid to charities. How well these aims have been reached can be judged from the keenness shown in school matches, and the £5000 and more given to charities. The ESFA does not keep any profits, and all concerned give their services without payment—a real labour of love for an ideal Youth movement.

The ESFA also arranges International Matches, and the schoolboys of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland pit their skill against each other in charity matches. Many of the lads who played for their country have gone on to do so as men, amateurs or professionals. For instance, Stanley Matthews, the Stoke City outside-right, has played more times for England than any other footballer, and has mementoes from many countries. But among his most cherished possessions is the cap he received as a schoolboy against Wales in 1929.

The C.N. wishes all success to the schoolboy footballers.

FLOATING SHOWROOM

A MILLIONAIRE'S motor yacht is to be fitted out as a travelling showroom for British goods. She is the Sayonara, released from war service in the Mediterranean, and bought by a group of export business men and ex-Servicemen.

The yacht will be equipped with exhibition stands to display light machinery, bicycles, electrical equipment, radio sets, fancy goods, and textiles, and big orders are hoped for. The owners plan to man the ship themselves and act as selling agents, and some of their wives will act as cooks and stewardesses. The first voyage, to South Africa and South America, should begin in May.



A Young Artist's Work

This drawing of a bus queue by Jill Francksen, aged 14, of St Christopher's, Bournemouth, was among those in the Exhibition of Children's Drawings at Guildhall, London, sometimes called The Children's Royal Academy.

18TH-CENTURY COURTESY CAMPAIGN

THE idea of a movement to promote courtesy, like those now being run by the London Passenger Transport Board and other authorities, would have appealed to many 18th-century judges of manners, such as the great Earl of Chesterfield and Horace Walpole.

But their ideas of courtesy were vastly different from ours. In those days it was essential for a courteous man to make long speeches on the most ordinary occasions. Lord Chesterfield, for instance, laid it down that if you are congratulating a friend who is about to be married, you should not just say "I wish you joy"—that is "boorish"; what you should say is: "Believe me, my dear sir, I have scarce words to express the joy I feel upon your happy alliance with such or such a family." Similarly, if you

express sympathy with someone who has just lost a friend or relation, you should not merely say, "I am sorry for your loss," but "I hope, sir, you will do me the justice to be persuaded that I am not insensible of your unhappiness, that I take part in your distress, and shall ever be affected when you are so."

As for that stickler for elegant behaviour, Horace Walpole, a writer of his day described his entering a roomful of people, "in the style of affected delicacy which fashion has made most natural; chapeau bras (hat) between his hands, as if he wished to compress it, or under his arm, knees bent, and feet on tiptoe, as if afraid of a wet floor."

Perhaps it is as well for our generation that our transport workers are too busy for such transports of courtesy.

A Good Idea From Bucks

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE schoolchildren are to be taken round factories in their last term so that they may see the kind of work they will have to do when they leave school.

It is a good idea, especially for little Bucks, where the factories, particularly those in and around Slough, its biggest town, have spread and developed so immensely between the two wars. But these boys and girls, we think, must be shown not merely *how* things are made, but *why*. And they should also learn why their own contribution is so vital, and what importance and dignity there can be even in the seemingly smallest tasks.

The transition from school to work, so eagerly welcomed by most boys and girls, is a greater

break than they realise; and it can have unfortunate results if the change is made merely by flinging these ardent young people into the industrial struggle.

Our leaders found during the war that the will meant everything in the day's work; men and women who had worked for many years made a kind of "new beginning" in our Dunkirk year, and what they learned then still sustains them in these difficult days and will bring us all through to better times.

We are sure that the industrialists and educationists of Bucks, who are co-operating in an excellent idea, will not miss the chance of making it a contribution of permanent value to our national life.

BURNLEY LIKES THE BALLET

ONE good thing the Vic-Wells Company left behind in Burnley after making their headquarters there during the war was an appreciation of ballet. Previous to their wartime stay in Burnley, the town prides itself on its own ballet company.

Credit for the development of this new art for the people must be given Miss Ethel Petit, who founded her company following a Sadler's Wells season.

Ballet is usually associated with Russia, and although there are no Russian ballerinas in this Burnley corps de ballet, the first meeting held during a heavy blizzard in 1941 was reminiscent of Russia. At its early stage, Miss Ninette de Valois, who has done great pioneering work for the Sadler's Wells Company, encouraged this local venture.

Now Burnley applauds its own company, and at a recent matinée five ballets were staged.

BEDTIME CORNER

Bobby's Easter Daffodils

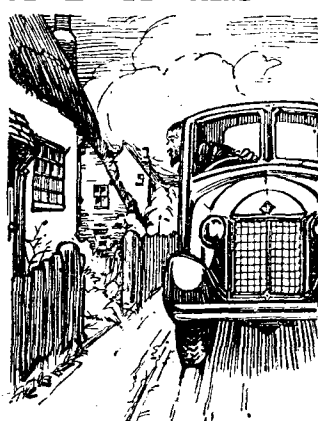
IN the village shop just before Easter, Bobby heard the grocer talking to a customer about the bare garden of Mrs Parrish's cottage.

"I hear that when her landlord, old Mr Scroggins, passes the cottage on his way to town," he said, "he often stops his car and scowls at that garden and mutters 'Nothing but weeds. I'll have to see into this.' I suppose that means he'll turn the poor old soul out. But how can she work in that garden? She's an invalid."

Bobby felt very sad at this story. Then he had a brilliant idea, for he remembered that Mr Scroggins was short-sighted. So that evening he made and wired a lot of paper daffodils—he was good at handiwork—and early next morning he ran up the road to Mrs Parrish's cottage and stuck them in her garden.

He had only just walked out when a car came down the road and stopped. Sure enough, it was Mr Scroggins who muttered: "So she has planted some flowers, after all. Very satisfactory."

Bobby was rejoiced to think that now Mr Scroggins would not turn Mrs Parrish out. But just then a strong gust of wind sprang up—and so did the paper daffodils. They fluttered all over the garden.



"Paper flowers!" muttered Mr Scroggins in disgust.

Bobby felt heartbroken, but he forced himself to tell Mr Scroggins everything.

To his surprise the old gentleman smiled.

"This comes of my talking to myself," he chuckled. "But all I meant when I said I must see into this was that I must get Mrs Parrish a gardener. You're a kind-hearted lad," he went on, "and if you'd like to grow some real flowers here I'll buy you some seedlings."

Bobby agreed, and that afternoon he was busily digging in Mrs Parrish's garden—and munching the sweet ration Mr Scroggins had given him.

Highland Heroes in Britain's Last Battle

Two hundred years ago this week, on April 16, 1746, there was fought the last battle on British soil, the Battle of Culloden Moor in the Highlands which marked the end of Prince Charles Stuart's attempt to gain the British throne.

The battle was fought on a dreary snow-swept moor six miles from Inverness. Only Highlanders could have decided to fight under such hopeless conditions. For Prince Charlie had nearly run out of money and for some time had been unable to pay or even properly feed his little devoted army of 5000 half-starved and exhausted Highland men who marched with him to Culloden House. At Nairn, 12 miles away, were 12,000 well-fed soldiers of King George II.

To make matters worse, Prince Charles impulsively decided, on the evening before the battle actually took place, to try to surprise the English army at Nairn by a night attack. But his Scots were so weak with hunger they could not walk fast enough to reach Nairn before dawn and so had to stumble back to Culloden.

A Traditional Honour

The exhausted men had barely time to snatch a little sleep on the sodden chilly heather before news was brought that the English host was approaching. Undaunted, the Highlanders took up their positions to offer battle. Here was more folly, for someone posted the Clan Macdonald on the left of the line—and it had been their traditional honour since Bannockburn to be on the right of the line! The Macdonalds were, therefore, in the terms of the modern soldier, "completely browned off."

The English general, the Duke of Cumberland, and his army arrived on the moor and took up their positions. Those were the days when armies fought with flintlock muskets and cannon, and first drew up in solid ranks facing one another. On that snowy April 16 the red coats of the English contrasted vividly with the kilts and bonnets of the Highlanders opposite.

The English had plenty of cannon and soon these were belching forth clouds of gun-powder smoke and roundshot which began to bowl the Scots down. Weary as they were, the Mackintosh Clan began a wild charge. They were armed with muskets, short round shields called targets, and swords. After firing their muskets they dropped them and rushed at the Red-coats, uttering shrill cries.

This had been enough in previous battles to make half-trained soldiers scamper like

rabbits, but these veterans were different. They stood their ground in three ranks, the front kneeling, the second crouching, and the third standing, and one after another fired at the oncoming Highlanders. The Red-coat soldier also used his bayonet with deadly effect. After fearful losses the Mackintoshes were obliged to fall back.

Meanwhile, the Macdonalds had sullenly taken no part in the fight, and when they decided to do so it was too late. A hail of bullets and grapeshot laid scores of them low as they charged, and they too were compelled to retreat.

Thus ended the '45, impetuous Prince Charlie's misguided rebellion, which brought such sorrow to the Highlands. His cause lingered in men's minds as a romantic memory, but before many years had passed the clansmen were serving in the British Army, and only 13 years after Culloden two Highland regiments were fighting gallantly at Quebec. That their heroic spirit lives today was amply proved by the deeds of the 51st Highland Division in the recent war.

How to Photograph

KEEN photographers will welcome the lectures to be given next fortnight by well-known experts at the Royal Geographical Society, Exhibition Road, London. The lectures are chiefly for enthusiasts between the ages of 12 and 17 and the series is to be opened by Miss Ellen Wilkinson at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, when the first lecture, on the History of Photography, is to be given by Dr D. A. Spencer of the Kodak Research Laboratory. During the war Dr Spencer was in charge of Research and Development of Photography at the Ministry of Aircraft Production.

Altogether there are to be six lectures—at 3 p.m. on April 24, 25, and 26, and May 1, 2, and 3. They will all be illustrated by films, lantern slides, and practical demonstrations.

One of the most popular will probably be that on Friday, April 26, when Mr Percy W. Harris will lecture on How to Use Your Camera. He will give a

THE PITBOY AT THE BBC

MR RAE JENKINS, conductor of the BBC Midland Light Orchestra since 1942, is to succeed Mr Charles Shadwell as conductor of the BBC Variety Orchestra.

Whether in the BBC's Music Hall or his own programme, Intermission, Mr Shadwell, the butt of all comedians, was just a voice with a laugh, and he leaves the BBC on April 20 because so many people want to see him laugh as well as to find out if all that the comedians have said about him is true! Mr Jenkins is not likely to provide so ready a butt for comedians, although someone will be sure to start by addressing him in a Welsh accent, recalling his native Carmarthenshire.

When only four years of age, Rae, the son of an Ammanford coal miner, was given a violin by his grandfather, and so began his musical career. At 11 he was first violin in the local theatre orchestra, and five years later left the pits and set out for London, where he studied at the Royal Academy of Music, some of his fees being paid by the people of Ammanford themselves. When he was 18 he played in the Queen's Hall Orchestra.

First broadcasting in 1930, Mr Jenkins has given great attention to gipsy music, on which he is an authority.

demonstration of making a plate and another of taking a picture by flashlight, and will show the difference between good and bad negatives.

At the last session, May 3, the young audience will be able to put questions to a team of distinguished photographers including Mr Marcus Adams, the well-known photographer of children, Mr Oliver G. Pike, the celebrated Nature photographer, Mr Harold White, photographer to the British Council, and also Mr Harris and Dr Spencer—a veritable Photographers' Brain Trust!

Admission is by ticket only, but a ticket for the whole series costs only ten shillings and sixpence and is obtainable from the Hon Sec, The Royal Photographic Society, 16 Princes Gate, London, SW 7. This fee is reduced by one third for organised parties of 12 or more from schools or youth organisations.

The Royal Photographic Society deserve thanks for providing this rare holiday treat for young camera artists.

New Liner's Aluminium Funnel

A new ship of the Mauretania class, being built on the Clyde, is to have an aluminium funnel. The ship is a 32,000-tonner, and is the biggest passenger ship under construction in Britain. She will be the first Clyde-built vessel to have an aluminium funnel.

Aluminium, light metal alloys, and plastics will figure prominently in the steamer's layout. Besides being decorative, the use of light metals has given the designers great scope in fashioning the hull, which will be over 840 feet long, a considerable length for a vessel of her tonnage. She will be narrower than usual in the upper structure, and so will

present a smaller surface to headwinds, thus giving extra speed without increased fuel consumption. Single-masted, the ship will be a breakthrough from normal shipbuilding practice, with underwater streamlining.

Plastics will be extensively used both inside and outside the hull. Acres of floor space will be carpeted with coloured plastic material, and in addition to plastic decorative mouldings and fittings a hard-setting plastic will be employed to smooth off protrusions on the outer hull.

The riveter who drove the first rivet into the keel was presented with a "lucky-penny" in the form of a £1 note.

How the Treasures Came From Benin

FOR over a thousand years there have been artists and craftsmen in our African Colony of Nigeria. The Public Relations Department there has decided to form a National Art Collection, and has already begun to collect the work of Nigerian artists.

A survey of Nigerian antiquities has been started, and plans for three museums have been approved—at Esin, at Ife (sacred city of the great Yoruba tribe), where famous 1000-year-old bronzes and terracottas will be shown, and in the ancient city of Benin.

Our own country possesses fine collections of works of art brought from Benin, notably in the British Museum and the Pitt Rivers Museum at Farnham in Dorset. They include rare bronzes of warriors, and of other native types, such as the woman's head in our picture, brass shields and bells and headdresses, and even carved coconuts. Not the least interesting are the vessels in bronze and wood, shaped as human heads and used for holding the carved elephant tusks regarded by the people as sacred objects and a great feature of their ghastly sacrificial worship. The King of Benin, too, is said to have sat with such tusks in his left hand when giving audience.

Strange, grotesque, and often hideous, many of these objects are, but carved with undeniable skill; and it is said that the people first learned their art from the Portuguese, who discovered Benin in the 15th century.

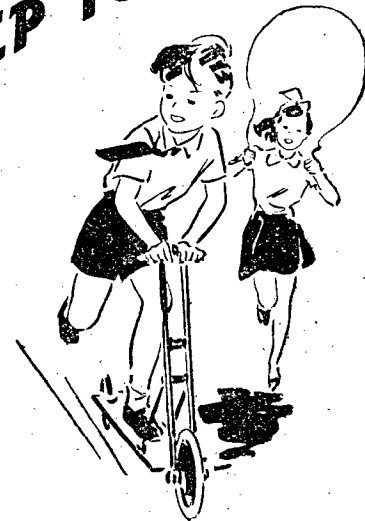


Their arrival in this country was the sequel to a dramatic chapter in Darkest Africa's story. Just 50 years ago a peaceful British mission left their settlements on the Guinea coast, and, laden with gifts and merchandise, made their way towards Benin, then a large rambling town with dwellings of red clay, surrounded by a mud wall and a ditch. They numbered some 250 men—brave men, but rash.

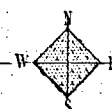
Against the advice of friendly chiefs, and the express orders of the King of Benin, they advanced, almost unarmed, straight into an ambush. The whole party was massacred, save for two men, who, after incredible hardship, managed to get back to their settlement to tell their awful story.

Five weeks later, in January 1897, an avenging expedition, well-armed and taking no chances, marched forth and captured Benin. The city had long been one of evil repute, and the conquerors found it in a dreadful state, with evidence of human sacrifice all too plain. They also found innumerable objects of art, so many of which eventually found their way into our museums—links with Darkest Africa's darkest days.

**BISCUITS
KEEP YOU GOING...**



The nation's nutrition experts have placed biscuits in the front rank of energy producing foods.

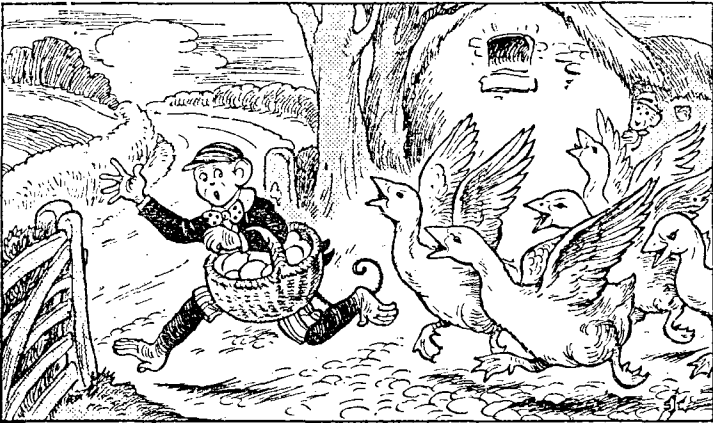


Issued by the Cake & Biscuit Manufacturers War Time Alliance Ltd.

CVS-12



Jacko's Easter Eggs



JACKO wanted some outside eggs for Easter and the farmer's wife gave him some goose eggs. Now Jacko doesn't like geese (and geese don't like Jacko), so it amused him to think he had their eggs. "Wouldn't they be mad if they knew!" he chuckled as he departed. Then he heard a gagging and saw, to his dismay, that they did know! They chased him home and his yells, mingled with their gagglings, alarmed the neighbourhood. But he managed to get the eggs away safely.

CATASTROPHIC

"WHAT became of the kitten you had when I was here before?" asked Auntie.

"Why, don't you know?" exclaimed her little niece in surprise. "She grew into a cat."

When Easter Began the Year

THE custom, decreed by Constantine, that Easter should begin the year, continued in France until 1565 when Charles IX ordered January 1 to take its place as New Year's Day.

Tongue Twister

BLAKE's bike brake block broke.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

A Mud Bath for Mrs Thrush "What a dirty-looking bird!" exclaimed Don, pointing to a thrush which was hopping on the lawn hunting for worms. "Looks as though it's had a mud bath."

"Well, you're not far out," chuckled Farmer Gray. "Mrs Thrush has been completing her nest. Thrushes, as you may know, build a cup-shaped nest of hay and dried grass. This is lined with mud, and, to obtain a smooth surface Mrs Thrush turns round and round in the nest while the mud is in a plastic state. This gives her a very bedraggled appearance."

The BRAN TUB

Facts About Easter Island

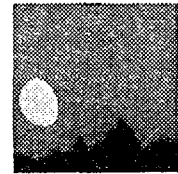
A LONELY island in the Eastern Pacific 2000 miles from the South American coast, Easter Island was so named because it was discovered on Easter Day 1722 by the Dutch Admiral Roggeveen. Its area is 50 square miles; highest peak 1768 feet; it has no rivers, but a sufficient rainfall. Population, about 100 people of the Polynesian race, all of whom are Christians.

Easter Island is famous for its mysterious giant statues of human heads erected long ago. The tallest of these is 37 feet. An example of the statues can be seen at the British Museum. One theory of their origin is that Maori settlers carved and raised them about AD 1066 to mark burial places.

Easter Island belongs to Chile, by whom it has been declared a national park.

Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars and Saturn are in the south-west, Venus is low in the west, and Jupiter is in the south-east. The picture shows the moon as it may be seen at 10.30, BST, on the evening of Friday, April 19.



Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, April 17, to Tuesday April 23.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Children's Theatre; followed by Young Artists. Midland, 5.0 A story—Oswald the Duck; duets; Towns that Were Trees; Children in India. North, 5.0 Young Artists; Spelling Bee. Scottish, 5.0 A story; Variety. 5.30 Peggy's Books. Welsh, 5.0 The Swordmaster; Young Artists. West, 5.0 The Smiling Sally's Stowaway; Trains, Tracks, and Trespassers.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Conjuror's Rabbit; Parthenon Picture. North, 5.0 Brendon Chase (Part 1). Welsh, 5.0 Adventures of the Blue Duck; My Farm; Over the Border; the Day Out of Doors.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Selfish Giant; Good Friday music; 5.35 Kirkintilloch Children's Choir. North, 5.0 Nursery Sing-song.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Variety.

SUNDAY, 5.0 This Joyful Eastertide; Bobby Brewster story. 5.25 The Victor's Triumph. North, 5.0 Trottemenu's Little Daughter; Easter music; Books.

MONDAY, 5.0 Said the Cat to the Dog (No 11); Folk Songs; The Reporter. North, 5.0 The Week's Programmes; Wandering with Nomad; Records; Is This Your Hobby? Scottish, 5.0 Nursery Rhymes; a Travel talk; ATC Pipeband; Competition; The Magic Mirror; Young Scholars.

TUESDAY 5.0 The Bear Garden (Part 3); 5.15 The Boy Who Fished for Gold. 5.40 Talk for St George's Day. Northern Ireland, 5.0 A Certain Dr Mellor (Part 3); Important to Us. Scottish, 5.0 Concert; Swimming to Music.

EASTER CUSTOMS

EASTER is the great festival of the year in the Greek church, and the Russian people have the beautiful custom on Easter morning of greeting one another with the saying, "Christ has risen."

Parents who lived in the North as children may remember taking part every Easter Monday in the old custom of rolling hard-boiled coloured eggs down a steep bank, the one whose egg got down first receiving a bag of sweets as a prize.

And in grandmother's day, in a village church in Hampshire, every Easter Sunday morning the boys and girls, and some of the older people, too, danced in procession round the nave singing Easter hymns, led by a man blowing a very long trumpet.

Time Piece

"YES, sir," said the assistant, "that's one of the best types of clocks in the store. It will go for eight days without winding."

"Really!" exclaimed the customer. "Then how long will it go if it is wound up?"

The Children's Newspaper, April 20, 1944

Do You Know Any More?

Isn't it strange how many birds, beasts, and fishes enter into games?

There are fowls in football, rooks in chess, birdies and eagles in golf, ducks in cricket, not to mention goldfish in bowls. And, of course, there are rabbits in all games!

AGELESS

"How old are you, Johnny?" asked his uncle.

"Two years older than Tommy," was the reply.

"And how old is he?"

"I don't know, he never told me!"

Maxim to Memorise

A BAD servant will never be a good master.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

On Show
Owners, 11;
dogs, 15

Long-Distance
Flights
Anson, 6,000;
Browne, 12,000;
Carter, 72,000

MOLE	FROG
OX	ARGUE
ACME	NAVE
TOP	ENDOW
VERY	IT
LEVER	EDEN
ORAL	FARE
R	SOLID
W	GOAT

"We're building up for a bright shopping future"



say your

SAVINGS STAMPS

"As soon as you convert us into one or other of the Savings Securities, your money helps to build a more prosperous Britain... with more goods in the shops for you. Remember, too, that money put into Savings grows—ready for better times. So go on buying National Savings Stamps for all you're worth! It's sound commonsense, isn't it?"

Issued by the National Savings Committee



HER FUTURE
INCLUDES THAT
magnesia
smile
THANKS
TO MOTHER.

Sound teeth are among the most valuable possessions you can ensure for your child. Here is a way to make certain she keeps them clean and healthy: see that she brushes them with Phillips' Dental Magnesia twice a day.

Regular use of Phillips' Dental Magnesia, which is the one toothpaste containing * 'Milk of Magnesia', neutralizes harmful mouth acids and helps to keep teeth white and free from decay. Make sure your child's future includes that sparkling *Magnesia* smile!

Sold everywhere 1/1d. and 1/10d.

Phillips' Dental Magnesia

(Regd.)

* 'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.